

## **IN THE CLAIMS**

1           1. (Currently Amended) An appliance for protection against impact and strain injury  
2 including a plurality of mutually overlapping interconnected plates of an impact-resistant material  
3 attached to or adapted to be attached to an article to be worn about a part of the body such as to  
4 permit limited relative movement between the plates; ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at least some of  
5 the plates are aligned and movable along a common backing member; and in that means are provided  
6 for removably mounting the appliance on an article to be worn.

1           2. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member is a ligament  
2 extending centrally along the appliance.

1           3. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member is comprised  
2 by two or more ligaments extending along the appliance in spaced disposition.

1           4. (Cancelled)

1           5. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein at least two of the  
2 interconnected plates are mounted in fixed relative disposition along the backing member.

1           6. (Cancelled)

1           7. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member  
2 forms, or includes, a fastener thus to be removably attachable to a part of the garment.

1           8. (Original) An appliance according to claim 7, wherein the fastener is a hook and loop  
2 fastener.

1           9. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, contained within a sleeve  
2 removably or permanently attached to a garment.

1           10. (Original) An appliance according to claim 5, wherein said at least two of the  
2 interconnected plates are attached by stitching to the backing member.

1           11. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the  
2 plates have loops and are threadedly mounted on the backing member.

1           12. (Original) An appliance according to claim 8, wherein a strip of the hook and loop  
2 fastener extends along and is attached to the backing member.

1           13. (Original) An appliance according to claim 12, wherein the strip of hook and loop  
2 fastener has a self-adhesive backing for attachment to the backing member.

1           14. (Original) An appliance according to claim 9, wherein the sleeve is open-ended to  
2 receive the appliance, the open end or ends being closable by a strip of hook and loop fastener.

1           15. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein several strips of such  
2 appliance are removably attached to the back of a glove.

1           16. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein several strips of such  
2 appliance are attached to a sock thus selectively to provide a shin guard, ankle guard or a guard at the  
3 rear to protect the Achilles tendon region.

1           17. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the or at least some  
2 of the interconnected plates are formed such as to consist individually of an outer shell and an inner  
3 core having, relative to the outer shell, more highly impact-resistant properties.

1           18. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member is formed at  
2 least one strip of hook and loop fastener with the interconnected plates threadedly engaged thereon in  
3 mutually overlapping relationship.

1           19. (Original) An appliance according to claim 1, wherein the backing member extends  
2 centrally along the row of interconnected plates, and further fastening means are provided removably  
3 to fasten outer side regions of at least some of said plates to a garment thus to prevent said side  
4 regions from lifting in use.